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North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 29, 2014

**Dairy Water Quality Inspection Report**

**Dairy Name:** Hughes Dairy  
**Physical Address:** Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)  
**Waste Discharger ID** 1B11135DSO  
**Inspection Date:** April 16, 2014 at 10:30 A.M.  
**Inspection Attendance:** Cherie Blatt, Regional Water Board  
Richard Hughes, Dairy Operator  
Glenn Sakamoto, Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)  
Becky Mitschele, USEPA  
Deanne Meyer, U.C. California Extension-Davis  
William Hart, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District  
Rebecca Fitzgerald, Regional Water Board  
**Dairy Type:** Organic  
**Cow Breed:** Jerseys  
**Cow Numbers:** 220 Milking and Dry (December 2013)  
146 Other (December 2013)  
**Permitted Maximum Milking + Dry:** 298  
**Permitted Maximum Other Dairy Cattle:** 298  
**Acres Owned:** 182 acres  
**Acres that receive manure and/or process water:** 160 acres  
**Nutrient Management Plan:** 2014 in process  
**Watersheds:** Salmon Creek

**I. Introduction**

On April 16, 2014, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff conducted a routine inspection of Hughes Dairy. The purpose of this inspection was to review the dairy water quality practices for compliance with the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Cow Dairies Order R1-2012-0003 (Waiver). Recommendations listed at the end of this report are offered to protect surface waters, groundwaters, and ensure compliance with the Waiver.

**Timeline**

April 12, 2012: The dairy submitted a Notice of Intent to enroll in the Waiver.

June 14, 2012: The dairy was enrolled under the Waiver.

November 20, 2012: The Regional Water Board received the dairy's Water Quality Plan as required by the Waiver. Cow numbers at that time were 217 milking + dry, and 10 other cattle.

November 26, 2013: Regional Water Board received an Annual Report from Hughes Dairy as required by the Waiver. The Annual Report indicates group membership with the Sonoma-Marín Representative Dairy Surface Water Monitoring program for surface water monitoring. The dairy captures surface water for the use. Groundwater is greater than 200 feet deep. There is a groundwater well in the pasture southwest of the production area. No groundwater monitoring results were attached to the report, however, an extension request was attached.

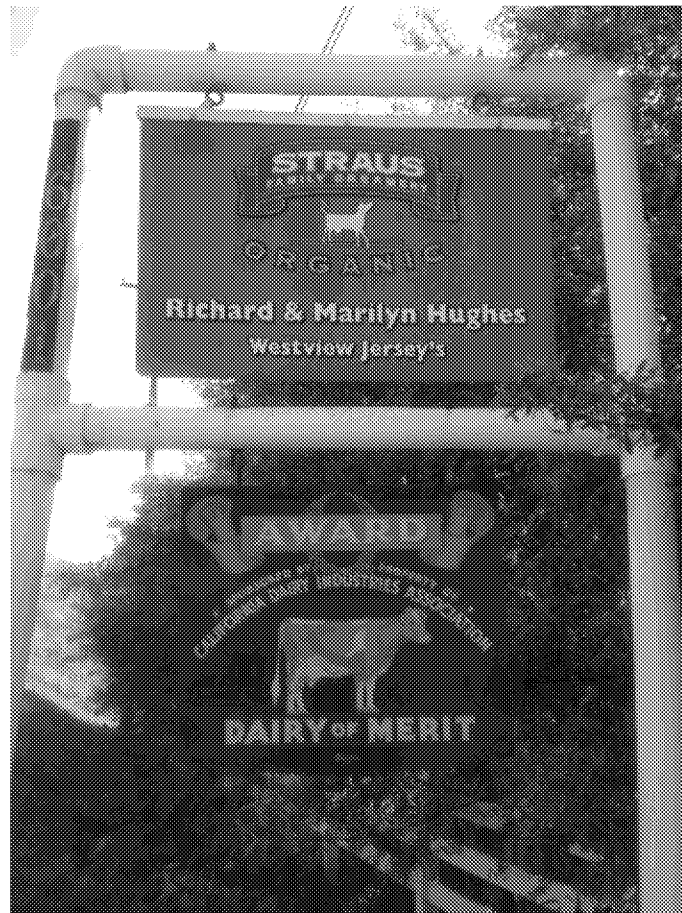
**II. Conclusion and Recommendations:**

Soils and manure at Hughes Dairy were observed to be stabilized, erosion control is practiced, and the dairy does not appear to pose a threat to surface waters or groundwater. The below-listed recommendations are offered to protect surface waters, groundwaters, and ensure compliance with the Waiver.

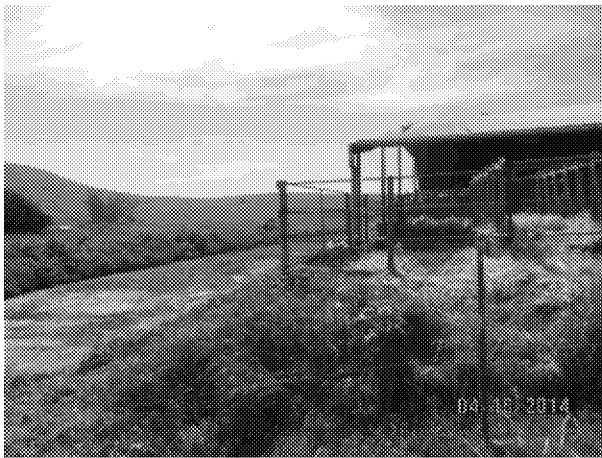
1. Thank you for working on a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan with a technical service provider (TSP). Please check with your TSP regarding pond berm integrity. We are concerned about the vegetation such as Cypress trees growing on the berm of the manure pond. It is possible that your TSP can confirm that the Cypress trees are shallow rooted and do not interfere with the berm integrity. Still, vegetation such as weeds growing on the pond berm hindered inspection to check for leaks. Please keep weeds trimmed, check for leaks regularly, and fix any problems to prevent discharges to surface water or groundwater.
2. Ensure that rain gutters are functional on buildings and are correctly routed away from manured areas to help conserve capacity in manure ponds during heavy rain events.

**Enclosures-** Dairy maps, Location, and Topographic Maps

**Photo Log** - April 16, 2014 by Cherie Blatt



1. Hughes Dairy Sign



2. Solids Pond



3. Hay and Freestall Barn Scraped into Solids Pond



2. Liquid Manure Pond



3. Dirt Road to Pasture North of Liquid Manure Pond



2. Mixture of Solids and Liquids Pond



3. Milk Barn



2. Feed Storage



3. Freestall Barn with concrete floor and curbs



5. Freestall Barn with concrete floor and curbs



6. Lane Between Freestall Barn and Feed Barn with concrete floor and curb



8. Corral and Pastures



8. Corral and Calf Housing



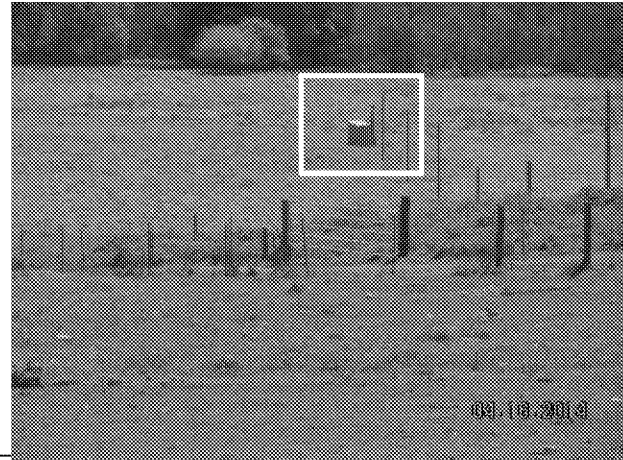
5. Corral area



6. Silage Pit Area, note Gutter on Freestall Roof on left



2. West view of Freshwater Reservoir and Pastures



3. Agricultural well in Pasture